



TUFOIC

P O Box 174 South Hobart
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TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2001

Edition 89.

2000 IN REVIEW.

The year has been one of change for the Centre. A brand new executive to operate the Centre, the Ufologist as the medium for publishing Tasmanian sightings, and a return to the Glenorchy Library for member's meetings. However, there has been a fall in membership, it seems to have coincided with a fall in UFO sightings. Throughout the years sighting activity seems to act like a barometer, if sightings are up, membership tends to rise also. Another new player on the scene of course is the Internet. Sightings and a mass of UFO information are now at anyone's fingertips, the need to belong to a UFO group to hear the latest news may have lost some of its appeal? Maybe more of a negative is the loss of our Northern Tasmania representative. The ability to have someone on the spot to interview witnesses and inspect sighting locations is of paramount importance.

Sightings wise the year 2000 was disappointing to say the least. Incoming calls of nearly 100 was about average, but of these some 9 cases mainly involving lights in the sky remain unexplained. Still, it seems to have been quiet in many other locations around the world.

However, the year was not without its interesting moments. The warm January nights saw streaks of light in Hobart's southern skies, but the source was soon found to be light reflections from squid boats operating in Storm Bay. The inevitable 'balloon devices' appeared with the early darkness of winter evenings. A number of orange lights reported and videoed over Launceston received press and TV coverage. Similar cases occurred over Devonport and Hobart.

A big meteor burnt up over North west Tasmania on June 10th. 'Lighting up the Police switchboard' reported the newspapers. The Police switchboard was in action again on July 10th. Hobart callers reported beams of lights moving about in the clouds to the north of the city. It was disappointment once again as the culprit was found to be a 'skytracker'

searchlight operating at the opening of a private school's new performance centre.

"Troublesome lights' reports to the Centre have almost been as interesting as the unexplained cases. At times great effort is made in tracking down the source of these 'lights in the sky' type reports. They have all the appearances of being some astronomical object or aircraft. The daytime report of pin points of light with trails that sound like an overflight. A series of light masses passing over a Hobart suburban area. An apparent meteor that seems to change direction. In some of the cases one wonders how the Centre only received one caller regarding a report over a busy suburb. Apparent air traffic that no one seems to be aware of.. However, the big danger is to label all these reports as UFOs. Using Okams Razor it is probable that the most likely explanation is in fact the explanation.

TASMANIAN STATISTICS 2000

Type	Number
Unidentified	9
Astronomical	32
Aircraft	9
Satellites	14
Meteorological	3
Balloons	12
Other	14
Insufficient Info:	3
Total Reports	96

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TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED REPORTS 2000.

2000. January 13th, 11.15am. Nierinna

The witness was travelling up Nierinna Rd near Margate on a bright sunny morning. She slowed for an intersection and noticed an object the size of a small plane over the hills ahead.. Mist covered the rear of two grey-white elliptic shapes moving horizontally together. Looking closely as the car had all but stopped the witness noticed a thin black line at the front that seemed to connect the two shapes. A few trees briefly obscured the view and when the witness searched the sky there was nothing to be seen.

2000. January 15th, 11.45pm. West Kentish.

The witness looked out at the view of Mt Roland from her house and noticed a line of 5 green light panels high on the mountainside. She called her husband to confirm what she was looking at. There were 5 rectangular panels, with a further smaller 5 lights to the left all at the same level. The witness estimated the length of the panels and lights at about 30 m.

At first they took the lights to be on a new building, and after watching for some time took no further notice. An inspection the following day revealed nothing to explain the row of lights.

2000. February 18th, 12.30am. Park Beach.

The witness had not long been home when he took his dog outside for a run. Almost at once a flash high above caught his eye. He looked up and saw a large (Moon sized) orange light moving rapidly across the sky towards Lauderdale. It travelled in a straight line from about a 60 degree elevation to about 30 degrees. He was then surprised to see the light reverse direction instantly and come back across the southern sky. Almost at once it again reversed its flight path and went off to the south-west towards Cremorne before doing a final direction reversely disappearing into the south-east.

2000 May 15th. 9pm. Forth.

A motorist travelling east on the Old Bass Highway noticed what looked like a falling star come down behind a hill to the south. A glow appeared behind the hill, then the passenger saw the light return across the sky to the north. This series of events was repeated two more times with the light moving either south or towards the north. On the final sighting the passenger said the light came more

from behind the car, paused for a few seconds then disappear northwards.

2000 May 25th. 1.45pm. Lutana.

The witness was hanging out the washing when she glanced skywards and noticed two bright lights against the blue sky. The lights were in the south and about half way up the sky. One light was higher than the other. At first they did not seem to move, then the higher light zig-zagged down to join the lower light. Once more the lights were still, then slowly they moved together towards the south-east. They looked to increase speed and gain elevation as they just vanished from sight (see second similar case on July 1st). No aircraft were in the sighting area. A further case on July 1st reported small dots with tails passing high overhead, this may have been high flying aircraft.

2000 June 24th. 2.05am. Granton.

The witness was returning home to New Norfolk on the Northern Outlet. Just short of Granton two bright white lights were seen side by side just west of the highway. The motorist slowed almost a stop as the lights came lower and a rectangular shape could be seen with square windows or panels on the side of the object. The object seemed to hover briefly then went straight up into the clouds, illuminating them as it disappeared. The witness had the impression that the object was possibly above the roadside paddock.

2000 September 12th. 8.00pm. George Town.

Another of those troublesome lights that catch the attention. The witnesses young daughter pointed out what looked to be a shooting star. The bright star could be seen moving eastwards beneath the moon. However after moving horizontally for about 5 seconds the star stopped at about a 30 degree elevation in the south-east sky. Then it looked to dance about in the one spot before diminishing in size and fading out of sight.

2000 October 27th. 11.43pm. Cambridge.

A motorist travelling on the highway from Mornington to Cambridge contacted the Centre after noticing two lights in the north-east sky. He later ascertained the second light was an aircraft en-route to Hobart Airport. The first light proved more of a mystery. Initially a silver-white light could be seen beyond Breakneck Hill as the motorist headed towards Cambridge. Then an inbound aircraft flew

beneath the light and disappeared to the south. As the witness travelled on the highway into the open countryside by Cambridge the silver-white light descended towards the Cambridge airstrip. However, it levelled out and moved across Barilla Bay in the direction of Penna at about a 20 degree elevation. The light then seemingly vanished in mid air. The Centre made extensive enquires into aircraft movements but no one seemed to be aware of any aircraft to account for the silver-white light.

2000. October 30th. Brighton.

A bright light seen by a Brighton resident appeared to have no explanation once the details had been obtained. The witness had gone outside for a smoke and was looking at the northern sky. He noticed a bright light low down and seemingly coming closer and gaining elevation as if to pass overhead. The light as it came closer was followed by two other similar lights on the same track. They were too far apart to be on the same object. The lights climbed up to a 60 degree elevation, paused, then turned and descended back to their original elevation. Again they paused as they turned a third corner in their triangle flight path before going away to the north and disappearing over the skyline. The 1 to 2 minute silent fly-past spooked the witness who went inside at once. Following astronomical and air traffic checks no explanation could be found.

NEW PUBLICATION.

At a recent TUFOIC meeting details were provided of the Mysterious Melodale affair. A series of paranormal events that occurred mostly between 1982 and 1997. A number of cases involving lights were reported during that time, strange dark shapes, poltergeist events, noises, animal reactions.

The details of the completed investigation has now been added to our list of publications. The result of many years of investigation this could be a classic series of events.

STORIES FROM LONG AGO.

A scan of old newspapers sometimes brings up reports of lights from long ago. Maybe most could be explained but now and again a more puzzling story appears.

Winter 1909 saw talk of mystery lights even a ghost from Upper Warwick St (West Hobart)

Continued next column.

TASMANIAN UFO REPORT STATISTICS

YEAR	REPORTS	UFO
Pre 1965	145	32
1965	39	13
1966	30	15
1967	14	5
1968	35	8
1969	65	15
1970	47	8
1971	96	23
1972	69	15
1973	135	27
1974	160	57
1975	173	50
1976	193	43
1977	156	39
1978	180	32
1979	154	19
1980	64	12
1981	88	11
1982	62	18
1983	68	12
1984	46	9
1985	89	12
1986	86	12
1987	73	12
1988	108	19
1989	92	11
1990	45	6
1991	47	5
1992	78	15
1993	86	6
1994	94	11
1995	95	16
1996	179	50
1997	109	10
1998	153	23
1999	102	5
2000	96	9

STORIES FROM LONG AGO CONTD:

The ghost appeared in the form of a figure in a big coat with a luminous body beneath the coat.

Mystery lights were reported from Tasmania's North West Coast. Similar lights to those seen in New Zealand were also reported near Hobart. Explanations forthcoming were a conjunction of the planets Venus and Jupiter, or the witnesses leaving the local hotel at closing time. A check of astronomical data confirms that such a conjunction took place in 1909.

Maybe the Colebrook correspondent saw something else. Last Saturday night (August 21st 1909) at about 8 to 9pm a torpedo shaped object was seen low over hills to the south-east. It looked to carry

STORIES FROM LONG AGO CONTD:

head or side lights which flashed like the searchlight of a warship. The object after gyrating in a strange manner mysteriously disappeared. The following night (Sunday 22nd) Mr J Tarbart saw the same thing about 10pm. The report was given in all seriousness and was not intended as a skit on recent accounts of lights seen in past of the country.

A West Coast sighting was reported from October 5th, 1914. Messrs Drum and ware and others at Silver Bell Siding saw a peculiar light in the sky. Observations were taken when the light appeared to be travelling from Macquarie Heads towards Mt Dundas where it finally disappeared. At the time two lights were distinctly visible as these intermittently disappeared rays were thrown to the earth. Similar reports have been recorded from Strahan and Queenstown.

No doubt a bigger mystery was the disappearance of Capt Strutt's De Haviland en-route to search for the missing 'Amelia J'. The De Haviland was never seen again after a cloud bank over Cape Barren Island obscured it from an accompanying aircraft.

That same day (Thursday, Sept 23rd, 1920) and old man living in the bush at Gladstone says after a crashing sound he saw a big object coming down. Then there was a second crashing sound following the object's disappearance. He said that he had never seen an aircraft before. (No search seems to be mentioned of the area?)

The next day (Friday) an unusual light with changing colours, red/white/and blue was seen over Settlement Point. It was though it could be a parachute light from the missing vessel. More lights, this time thought to be rockets were seen from StHelens, Goulds Country, and Lottah. All the lights were out towards the sea. Comments were made that searches from the air and on the ground in the area of the lights failed to find anything to explain the disappearances. More lights were seen than could have been taken by the missing aviator.

Another mystery plane noise was heard on Flinders Island at 10.30am on January 10th, 1928. Three men working near Whitemark heard the unmistakable hum of an aircraft engine. Then they heard a crash like many kerosene tins being rattled. A Mr Brown 9 miles north-est of Whitemark also reported the same noise. A search of the area found nothing.

Mystery aircraft were reported near Hobart the following day. It was suggested the plane was the lost aeroplane from Sydney to New Zealand which left Sydney at 2.44am on January 10th.

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS

- **TASMANIAN U.F.O. SIGHTINGS CATALOGUE TASCAT 2000**

..... \$3.00

A register of over 500 Tasmanian UFO Cases.

- **TASMANIAN UFO LANDINGS CATALOGUE - Third Edition (1995)**

..... \$3.00

A compilation of Tasmanian UFOs seen on or near Ground level.

- **CRESSY DOCUMENT**

..... \$3.00

The small Town of Cressy was the scene of one of the states most significant UFO Sightings.

- **MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT**

.....\$3.00

The lonely Lighthouse island, off the southern tip of Tasmania, Has been the scene of many UFO reports.

- **NORTH-EAST TASMANIA - 1974 DOCUMENT**

.....\$3.00

The largest Tasmanian UFO flap ever, occurred in the North-East of the state in 1974.

- **UFO TASMANIA Magazines: 1987 to 1997 (11 issue set**

..... \$12.00

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